

Resolving the Digital Divide for Native Communities

Defining an Approach

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- Federal/State/Tribal/Private Efforts needed to address issues
- Efforts must focus on viable economic development activities
 - Economic factors drive development in IT
 - Tribal efforts in this area must be economically viable and sustainable over the long-haul

Closing the Divide

- The Federal Communications Commission has initiated proceedings to explore solutions to the lack of infrastructure
- Tribal governments must assess community needs and establish a plan for encouraging tribal participation in the information economy
 - Tribal Technology Assessment
 - Up-Skilling Tribal Members (Tribal Geek Movement)

Sources of the Divide

- **Insufficient Infrastructure**
 - Many tribal communities do not have the telecommunications infrastructure necessary to support participation in the information economy
- **Economic and Other Barriers**
 - Even when the infrastructure is available, services are not affordable to the average individual
 - Tribal Communities often do not have sufficient resources to support participation in the information economy (educational, business, etc.)

Defining the Divide

- What services and opportunities are we trying to ensure?
- Access to Telephones
- Internet Access
- Computer Skills
- What Else?



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